

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6 and 15 are presented for consideration. Claims 1 and 15 are independent. Claims 8-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-6 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention, while claim 15 has been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these changes and this claim can be found in the original application, as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 1-6 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,784,904 to Dow et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,005 to Yoshida and U.S. Patent No. 6,862,102 to Meisner et al. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Dow et al. patent, the Yoshida patent, and the Meisner et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,198,853 to Ichihara et al. Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Dow et al. patent, the Yoshida patent, and the Meisner et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,825,250 to Miyata et al. Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention, as previously recited in these claims. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 15, for example, as presented, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

In one aspect of the present invention, independent claim 1 recites a method of reading a plurality of film originals, mounted with a slide mount, which are placed on an original support of an image reading apparatus and displaying them on a monitor unit of a computer connected to the image reading apparatus. The method includes an image reading step of reading each of the images of the originals placed on the original support and cutting out image areas to generate image signals, a placement orientation detection step of detecting placement orientation of the original as to whether it is landscape or portrait, based on lengths in horizontal and vertical directions of the image signal generated in the image reading step, an image signal rotation step of rotating the image signal to be in a landscape placement, when the placement orientation of the original detected in the placement orientation detection step is different from the landscape placement, and a read image signal display step of displaying the plurality of read image signals on one display screen of the monitor unit in the landscape placement and in a form of a thumbnail type display.

In another aspect of the present invention, independent claim 15 recites a system for reading a plurality of film originals, mounted with a slide mount, which are placed on an original support of an image reading apparatus and for displaying them on a monitor unit of a computer connected to the image reading apparatus. The system includes an image reader for reading each of the images of the originals placed on the original support and for cutting out image areas to generate image signals, a placement orientation detector for detecting placement orientation of the original as to whether it is landscape or portrait, based on lengths in horizontal and vertical directions of the image signal generated by the image reader, an image signal rotator for rotating the image signal to be in a landscape placement, when the placement orientation of the original detected by the placement orientation detector different from the landscape placement, and a read

image signal display for displaying the plurality of read image signals on one display screen of the monitor unit in the landscape displacement and in a form of a thumbnail type display.

By such an arrangement, the present invention provides a method and a system for reading a plurality of film originals, mounted with a slide mount, which are placed on an original support of an image reading apparatus and displaying them on a monitor unit of a computer connected to the image reading apparatus. The present invention provides the ability to display a plurality of read images on one display screen of the monitor unit in a landscape displacement, for example. In turn, the present invention can be utilized with a sleeve-type film having six frames.

Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest many features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 15.

The Examiner relies on the Dow et al. patent for showing a method of reading a plurality of originals placed on an original support and displaying the original, which includes an image reading step, a placement orientation detection step, an image signal rotation step and a read image signal displacement step.

The Examiner relies on the Yoshida patent for showing an arrangement to determine whether an image is landscape or portrait based on an image signal generated in an image reading step. The Examiner relies on the Meisner et al. patent for showing an image preview apparatus for displaying a plurality of read images at the same time on one display screen. The Examiner relies on the Ichihara et al. patent for showing a method of detecting placement orientation based on a comparison of a vertical size and a horizontal size of an image signal. The

Examiner relies on the Miyata et al. patent for showing an image area of an original placed on an original support is cut out to generate an image signal.

Applicant submits, however, that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest many features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 15, including, among other features, displaying a plurality of read image signals on one display screen of a monitor unit in a landscape placement and in a form of a thumbnail type display. Applicant submits, therefore, that the cited art should not be read to anticipate or render obvious Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 15.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 15, is patentably defined over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

Dependent claims 2-6 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claim 1. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
SEW/cab

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